



UPDATE

Poultney Mettowee Watershed Partnership

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SELECTED VERMONT PARTNERS

Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD)

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The PMNRCD develops programs for landowners and the general public within the District that will encourage the best practices for conservation of soil and clean water. A locally elected board of supervisors and the district manager conduct needs assessment; and work to provide information, funding, and education to communities on natural resource issues.

USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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The NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to farmers, landowners, and municipalities in matters related to natural resources.

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC)

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VT DEC, part of the Agency of Natural Resources, has launched the *Watershed Improvement Project* to implement short-term, action-oriented projects within each of Vermont's 17 watersheds, while at the same time working with area residents to identify long-term water quality management goals. The Poultney Mettowee

watershed is one of the first three in the state to become part of this project.

Vermont Department of Agriculture, Food, and Markets

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The *Vermont Ag Resource Program* works with the conservation district and agricultural producers to help achieve compliance with Accepted Agricultural Practices, to promote the Farm*A*Syst water quality program, and provide educational services.

Southwestern Vermont Nutrient Management Program

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The program provides one-on-one crop management services for a fee to farmers in Rutland and Bennington counties. This program, which is funded by a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency, works to help farmers with management decisions that will help improve water quality and increase farm sustainability.

The Nature Conservancy

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The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Poultney Mettowee Watershed Partnership

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The Partnership is a joint initiative of the Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District in Vermont, and New York's Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District, with funding for coordination provided by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The Partnership brings together the efforts of citizens and organizations that share the common vision of conserving, protecting, and enhancing the natural and cultural resources of the watershed. This unique two-state collaborative is working to foster cooperation between natural resources conservation and agricultural organizations in the watershed along with accomplishing on-the-ground projects through recruiting volunteers and obtaining funding for equipment, supplies and materials. The goals of the Partnership are to:

- Enhance and interpret wildlife populations and habitats and other natural resources
- Maintain a healthy agricultural based economy while protecting, restoring, and conserving the soil and water resources of agricultural lands
- Educate youth, educators, adults, residents, and visitors about conservation practices and the environment
- Maintain and enhance agricultural and nature-based recreation opportunities

Visit the Partnership website:

www.vacd.org/pmnrncd for links to other partners.

